

**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRAFFIC COMMISSION
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 20, 2021
6:00 P.M.
VARIOUS TELECONFERENCE LOCATIONS**

1. OPENING CEREMONIES

a. Call Meeting to Order

A regular meeting of the Public Safety and Traffic Commission was called to order by Chair Kurata at 6:00 p.m. via teleconference pursuant to Governor Newsom's Executive Order N-29-20 of March 17, 2020, and COVID-19 pandemic protocols.

b. Roll Call

The following Commissioners responded to the roll call by Deputy City Clerk Abbott: Commissioner Ballard, Commissioner Cozzolino, Commissioner Sloane, Vice-Chair Carmody, and Chair Kurata. Also present were Public Works Director Dillon, Sheriff's Deputy Despot, L.A. County Traffic Engineer Guilmette, Management Analyst Hernandez, and Administrative Analyst Contreras

Present: Ballard, Cozzolino, Sloane, Carmody, and Kurata

Absent: None

2. SELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR FOR 2021

Vice-Chair Carmody made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Cozzolino, to select Chair Kurata as Chair for 2021.

MOTION CARRIED by the following vote:

AYES: Ballard, Cozzolino, Sloane, and Carmody
NOES: None
ABSTAIN: Kurata

Vice-Chair Carmody made a motion, seconded by Chair Kurata, to select Commissioner Ballard as Vice-Chair for 2021.

MOTION CARRIED by the following vote:

AYES: Cozzolino, Sloane, Carmody, and Kurata
NOES: None
ABSTAIN: Ballard

3. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

None

4. CONSENT AGENDA

a. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: December 16, 2020

Commissioner Sloane made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chair Ballard, to approve the minutes.

MOTION CARRIED by the following vote:

AYES: Carmody, Sloane, Ballard, and Kurata
NOES: None
ABSTAIN: Cozzolino

SCHEDULED MATTERS

5. NO STOPPING APPIAN WAY SOUTH OF 261ST ST.

Traffic Advisor Guilmette presented the staff report as per the agenda material.

Deputy Despot stated that Lomita Station issues tickets reactively rather than proactively. Deputies will often run plates to see if a vehicle in violation is registered to someone living nearby, and if so, they will knock and give the vehicle owner the option to move it. He added that it is very tight there for trash collection and delivery trucks.

Vice-Chair Ballard made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Sloane, to recommend to the City Council to:

1. Remove the existing NO STOPPING ANYTIME sign (R28 (S)(CA)) with a double arrow the east side of Appian Way at a point 27 feet south of the south curb line of 261st Street.
2. Install a NO STOPPING ANYTIME sign (R28(S)(CA)) with a right arrow on the east side of Appian Way at the south curb line of 261st Street.
3. Install a NO STOPPING ANYTIME sign (R28(S)(CA)) with a left arrow on the east side of Appian Way at the north curb line of the alley south of 261st Street.

MOTION CARRIED by the following vote:

AYES: Carmody, Cozzolino, Sloane, Ballard, and Kurata
NOES: None

6. SHERIFF DEPARTMENT UPDATES - Informational only, no staff report.

Deputy Despot stated that there has been an uptick in catalytic converter thefts in the area, as well as an increase in homeless persons countywide. When encountered, deputies help to relocate such individuals to better situations.

7. STAFF UPDATES - Informational only, no staff report.

Public Works Director Dillon had nothing to report.

Management Analyst Hernandez gave an update on the Safety Element planning meetings. She stated that monthly days/times have been narrowed down but are still being worked out. At the first meeting, in February 2021, the committee will be tasked with reviewing the draft of the existing conditions report. She then outlined the City's public outreach regarding the process, which will include community meetings.

OTHER MATTERS

8. COMMISSIONER ITEMS

Commissioner Sloane suggested placing discussion of eliminating the requirement of a Public Safety and Traffic Commissioner to attend the City Council's Regular Meetings (instead sending the Commissioners City Council meeting minutes upon approval) on a future agenda.

Vice-Chair Ballard suggested that all Public Safety and Traffic Commission meeting staff attendees use the video feature during the Zoom meetings.

In response to a question from Commissioner Carmody, Public Works Director Dillon stated that she had nothing to share regarding the expected traffic increase in the area surrounding the new Amazon Warehouse in Torrance. She stated that she would report back to the Commission when she has any information.

There was brief discussion relative to Amazon sales tax and whether it goes back to the City of Lomita when items are purchased by Lomitians.

In response to a question from Commissioner Carmody, Public Works Director Dillon stated that the new parking-related signage on Palos Verdes Drive North had been installed.

In response to a question from Commissioner Carmody, Deputy Despot stated that he was unaware of any recent collisions at Popeyes on Pacific Coast Highway. He added that the situation has improved but the problem still exists.

Deputy Despot stated that the recent installation of signage at Palos Verdes Drive North fixed the problem, eliminating overnight parking and people living in motorhomes there.

Chair Kurata commented on the construction of an ALDI on Crenshaw Boulevard in Torrance, and the increased traffic that will result.

Vice-Chair Ballard stated that the intersection of Lomita and Crenshaw Boulevards will be horrendous due to the Amazon Warehouse, ALDI, and Picerne Development. Public Works

Director Dillon stated that the northbound lane of Crenshaw just north of Lomita Boulevard will be closed intermittently for the next two years related to the Picerne construction.

In response to a question from Commissioner Carmody, Deputy Despot stated that land next to Lomita Station has been mocked up for a land sale approved for housing.

In response to a question from Vice-Chair Ballard, Public Works Director Dillon stated that the City of Torrance is responsible for traffic lights timing at the intersection of Lomita and Crenshaw Boulevards, so she will reach out to them regarding their plans for any adjustments.

Commissioner Cozzolino remarked upon his attendance at the City Council meeting of December 8, 2020, where two newly elected Council Members were seated. He also spoke of his attendance at the November 3, 2020, Council Meeting, where the 24329 Narbonne Avenue project was approved.

In response to a question from Commissioner Cozzolino, Public Works Director Dillon stated that the Public Safety and Traffic Commission was not involved in that project because it was more about activating the space and creating ambience in the downtown area, and not so much about parking.

In response to a question from Commissioner Carmody, Deputy City Clerk Abbott stated that the City sales tax increase (Measure L) goes into effect on April 1, 2021.

9. COMMISSIONERS TO ATTEND CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

Tuesday, February 2, 2021 – Commissioner Carmody

Tuesday, February 16, 2021 – Commissioner Cozzolino

10. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Linda E. Abbott
Deputy City Clerk/PSTC Secretary